

## Summary of Proposed SFS Constitution and By-Laws Changes and Updates

Prepared 2024-02-28 by Caleb J. Robbins (SFS CRC Chair)

Incorporating suggestions from President Sherri Johnson, Vice-President Erin Hotchkiss, Long-Range Planning Committee co-chair Allison Roy, Zanethia Barnett (Non-academic Rep to Board), members of the CRC

\*Article X, Section Y is denoted as “X§Y”

### Major changes:

- 1) Terminology for members of the Board of Directors has been clarified, but there is no net change in number of Directors. Delegates are identified as Board members elected through general membership vote. The Student representative is no longer identified as a “Delegate”, instead as “appointed member.” The past chair of the Education and Diversity Committee is no longer an appointed member of the Board. A representative of the new Council of Underrepresented Voices will serve as an appointed member to the Board.
- 2) Names changes for committees:
  - a. “Public Information and Publicity Committee” is renamed as the “Communications Committee” at the suggestion of the Communications Task Force.
  - b. The Education and Diversity Committee is renamed the “Education Committee” (the “EdComm”).
  - c. “Endowment Committee” abbreviated name replaces “Board of Trustees” or “Board of Trustees of the Society for Freshwater Science Endowment Fund for Scientific Research and Education” throughout (“Board of Trustees of...” remains the official committee title).
- 3) Two committees had become inactive and are no longer mentioned in the by-laws.
  - a. The Development Committee is dissolved at the suggestion of the Development Committee.
  - b. The Technical Issues Committee is dissolved at the suggestion of the Technical Issues Committee.
- 4) The Council of Underrepresented Voices is added as an Advisory Council.

### Specific changes to Constitution:

Article 10 clarified change in terminology about elected Delegates for the Board of Directors. By-laws clarify that SFS has 4 Delegates on the Board.

Specific changes to By-Laws:

1§2: Added statement that SFS does not sell or distribute its membership list outside of the membership.

2§2 and throughout: “Endowment Committee” replaces “Board of Trustees” or “Board of Trustees of the Society for Freshwater Science Endowment Fund for Scientific Research and Education.” The official title is retained in 5§3, along with clarification of shorter designation.

2§3: Clarifies Vice-President and Executive Director both serve as liaison between Executive Committee and standing committees

2§6: Removed clause specifying purpose of Election and Place Committee (EPC) – this is redundant with 5§5 (previously 5§6) where EPC role is defined.

2§10: Number of Delegates to the Board changed from 5 to 4. The Student (SRC) rep moved from Delegate to appointed member of the Board. The Student representative is not elected by the general membership (Delegates specifically are), instead representing a committee (see text changes to 3§2).

3§2: Composition of Board Directors altered: Removal of the past chair of the Education Committee (formerly Education and Diversity Committee), and addition of a representative of the Council of Underrepresented Voices. Text also reflects moving the Student (SRC) Representative from Delegated to appointed member category (see changes to 2§10).

3§3: Removed text to reflect Student Member is no longer a Delegate category Board member. Relatedly, Deadlines to distribute ballots to the society membership to elect relevant Officers and Delegates changed from January to February.

Sections 5§4 through 5§12 were renumbered to reflect dissolution of Development Committee, which was previously defined in 5§4, and movement of Membership and Data Committee to 5§12 from 5§21. Sections 5§16 through 5§19 were renumbered to reflect dissolution of Technical Issues Committee, previously 5§16.

5§2: Finance Committee short name changed to “FinComm” here and throughout 5§2. Language added to clarify annual budget to Board is for the upcoming calendar year. Clarification also made that the President appoints or reappoints the Chair each year, and appoints or reappoints FinComm members when their terms expire, adding that terms for appointed members are “staggered 3 year terms.”

5§3: “Board of Trustees” [of the Society for Freshwater Science Endowment Fund for Scientific Research and Education] now referred to as “Endowment Committee.” Name changed throughout by-laws.

5§5: New text reassigns member appointments for the Election and Place Committee; instead of being appointed by incoming President, the EPC Chair (Past President) makes this appointment. Text also removes role of Executive Director in these appointments.

5§6a: New text clarifies Chair of Award of Excellence, Distinguished Service Award, Leadership Award, and Environmental Stewardship Award Selection Subcommittee is the appointed member who has served the longest.”

5§6c: New text clarifies the President appoints the Chair of the Student Awards Selection Subcommittee.

5§7: Changes clarify Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) role of past Vice-Presidents, who will serve three year terms on the LRPC upon the completion of their term as Vice-President, and as co-chair during the latter two. Additionally, President will appoint co-chairs in the event a past Vice President is unable to serve. Text is also added to clarify that the co-chairs will decide which of them serves as member of the Publications Committee, and text is removed to reflect that LRPC chair would no longer serve as member of the Development Committee because it dissolved.

5§8: New text clarifies the Chairs of the Program and Local Arrangements Subcommittees of the Annual Meeting Committee have the role of appointing additional members to these subcommittees.

5§9: Text clarifies that the abbreviation of the Publishing Committee is PubComm, and that the Editor receives honoraria, not salary. Assistants are hired by the publisher and are no longer mentioned in By-Laws. Communications Specialist added as non-voting member to Publications Committee in SFS Web Site subcommittee. The Communications Specialist was formerly the “Media Officer” and this has also been replaced throughout the by-laws.

5§10: The “Public Information and Publicity Committee” is now the “Communications Committee” and this name has been replaced throughout the by-laws.

5§12: The description of the Membership and Data Committee has been moved to section 5§12 to reflect its grouping with other standing committees in this first portion of Article 5. Language added to clarify that the President annually appoints the Chair, and to specify that demographic data for the society should be reviewed in collaboration with the Council for Underrepresented Voices.

5§15: Added appointment guidelines for the Taxonomic Certification Committee.

Formerly 5§16: The Technical Issues Committee is dissolved and removed from the by-laws.

5§16: Language added to clarify Science and Policy Committee Chair is elected annually by its own committee members. Also removed reference to the Technical Issues Committee (see previous listed change).

5§17: International Coordination Committee (ICC) now has co-chairs who are elected annually by its own committee members. Additionally, clarifies non-North American Delegate on the Board is a member of ICC and serves as liaison between ICC and Board.

5§18: Language added to encourage organizing workshops or special sessions at the Annual Meeting as part of Conservation and Environmental Issues Committee's activities. New text also clarifies the Chair(s) are elected annually by its own committee members.

5§19: The Education and Diversity Committee is renamed the Education Committee (EdComm). New text clarifies EdComm chair is elected annually by its own committee members, whereas the chair was previously appointed to three year terms. Language added to encourage workshops as part of EdComm's activities at the Annual Meeting. Lastly, the past Chair of EdComm no longer is appointed to the Board (see changes to 3§2), so that language has been removed.

Article 6 title includes "Task Forces," which are already described in the body of Article 6.

7§1: Language clarifies rename of Board of Trustees to Endowment Committee, and role of endowment committee in consulting the Board and Finance Committee on managing endowment funds. New text clarifies funding and priorities for awards, prizes, and program support: "Interest income generated by investment of capital of the Endowment Funds shall provide the funding for awards, prizes, and support for programs. Specific endowment funds have described foci for disbursement of interest income, while the interest income from the General Endowment supports societal goals as described in the SFS Strategic Plan, with priorities identified by the Board in discussion with Endowment Committee."

Article 8: Responsibility of reporting on Board activities at Annual Meeting expanded from President-Elect to any member of the Executive Committee.

Article 16 expanded to include "topical" chapter scopes, i.e., "related to a specific topic with broad geographic interest."

Article 18 (Advisory Councils) is added, with description of Council of Underrepresented Voices.